

To: Keeler, Barbara[Keeler.Barbara@epa.gov]
From: Fanning, Cynthia
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 5:07:38 PM
Subject: FW: Gold Mine Spill, News Digest, Friday, Aug. 14
[Gold Mine Spill Digest 08142015.pdf](#)

From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam; Ruiz, Thomas; Gray, David; Taheri, Diane; Honker, William; Garcia, David; Edlund, Carl; Phillips, Pam; Crossland, Ronnie; Webster, Susan; Petersen, Chris; Atkins, Blake; Hayes, Mark; Mason, Steve; Acevedo, Janie; Assunto, Carmen; Durant, Jennah
Cc: Bokun, Lisa; Vela, Austin; Martindale, Cary; Weber, Gina; Fanning, Cynthia; Fitch, Bruce; Braden, Dana
Subject: Gold Mine Spill, News Digest, Friday, Aug. 14

1 — EPA: Lead, arsenic levels soared in hours after spill, Albq Journal, 8/14/2015

<http://www.abqjournal.com/628167/news/epa-lead-arsenic-levels-soared-in-hours-after-spill.html>

River-water testing released Thursday showed soaring levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium and other heavy metals when the sickly-yellow Gold King Mine plume of waste first flowed through Colorado and into New Mexico and Utah last week. The metals far exceeded government exposure limits for aquatic life and humans in the hours after the Aug. 5 spill, which sent 3 million gallons of wastewater through three Western states and the Navajo Nation.

2 — EPA denies pressuring Navajos into waiving rights to future payments in river disaster, Washington Post, 8/32/2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/aug/13/epa-denies-navajo-pressure-to-waive-rights-to-futu/?page=1>

EPA administrator Gina McCarthy moved to mend fences Thursday with Navajo Nation as the agency denied accusations that it tried to force Indians to waive their rights to future claims stemming from the Gold King Mine blowout. In a statement Thursday, the EPA described as “inaccurate” comments by Navajo President Russell Begaye, who told The Washington Times and other press this week that EPA workers were going door to door on his reservation asking residents to sign claim forms appearing to waive future rights for payments now.

3 – By the numbers: The massive toll of the Animas River spill, CNN, 8/13/2015

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/13/us/animas-river-spill-by-the-numbers/index.html>

The environmental crew had one job: pump out and treat contaminated water at the Gold King Mine in southern Colorado. Instead, when the workers for the Environmental Protection Agency used heavy equipment to enter the defunct mine on August 5, 2015, a leak sprung. A massive one.

4 — EPA Criticized For Slow Response To Wastewater Spill In Colorado, NPR, 8/13/2015

http://www.npr.org/2015/08/13/432036020/epa-criticized-for-slow-response-to-wastewater-spill-in-colorado?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=environment

The Environmental Protection Agency and multiple western states are dealing with the spill into Colorado's Animas River. It was triggered by a crew of EPA contractors working at the Gold King Mine.

5 — EPA chief Gina McCarthy says water quality in Animas back to "pre-event conditions", Denver Post, 8/12/2015

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28627376/epa-chief-gina-mccarthy-durango-wednesday-see-animas?source=hot-topic-bar

Seven days after her agency's massive mine wastewater spill into a major southwest watershed, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency said water quality in the Animas River through La Plata County has "returned to pre-event conditions." Administrator Gina McCarthy, in a boots-on-the-ground appearance Wednesday in Durango that's expected to continue Thursday in Farmington, N.M., called the Aug. 5 incident "heartbreaking" and said the EPA "couldn't be more sorry."

6 — EPA says Animas River on the mend after toxic spill, USA Today, 8/13/2015

<http://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/2015/08/13/31609051/>

The water in the Animas River in Durango, Colorado is on the mend, according to the state health department and the EPA. Authorities are so confident the water is improving, they gave Durango the go-ahead to begin pulling water for customer use.

7 – Will EPA have to pay for polluting river?, CNN, 8/13/2015

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/13/opinions/cevallos-animas-river-liability/index.html>

Recently while the Environmental Protection Agency was excavating a mine near Silverton, Colorado, to clean up the polluted water releases from the mine, a contractor working for the EPA let loose 3 million gallons of contaminated water from the mine into a tributary of the Animas River. That's right. EPA was there to help fix the water, and instead ended up contaminating a lot more water.

8 — Mine-waste risks to linger, experts say, Arkansas Online, 8/13/2015

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/aug/13/mine-waste-risks-to-linger-experts-say-/?f=news-national>

The toxic waste gushing from a Colorado mine and threatening downstream water supplies in at least three states will continue to be dangerous whenever contaminated sediments get stirred up from the river bottom, authorities said Wednesday. The immediate effect of the 3 million-gallon spill is easing as the orange-tinted contamination plume becomes more diluted on its way into Lake Powell along the Utah-Arizona border.

9 — Navajo Nation president urges residents not to use EPA form for claims, Albq Journal, 8/13/2015

<http://www.abqjournal.com/627644/news/navajo-nation-president-urges-residents-not-to-use-epa-form-for-claims.html>

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye has warned tribal residents to avoid using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's form for claims of damage or injury as a result of the Gold King Mine spill. In the president's Wednesday directive Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch advised that the federal form "contains offending language that will waive future claims for individuals that sign the form and preclude our people from seeking full compensation for injuries suffered from the spill."

10 — EPA head meets with Navajo president over Colorado mine spill, Reuters, 8/13/2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/13/us-usa-colorado-spill-idUSKCN0QI2K920150813>

The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection agency told the Navajo Nation president on Thursday that her agency would work closely with the Native American tribe in handling a toxic

waste spill into river waters from a defunct Colorado gold mine.

11 — Plume was full of heavy metals, Ark. Online, 8/14/2015

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/aug/14/epa-river-toxic-after-mine-spill-201508/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday that surface-water testing revealed very high levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium and other heavy metals as a sickly-yellow plume of mine waste flowed through Colorado.

In the hours after the Aug. 5 spill -- which sent 3 million gallons of wastewater through three Western states and the Navajo Nation -- amounts of the metals far exceeded government exposure limits for aquatic life and humans.

12 — River disaster a long time in the making, Abq Journal, 8/13/2015

<http://www.abqjournal.com/628147/opinion/river-disaster-a-long-time-in-the-making.html>

The mustard-colored water flowing down the Animas River in southwestern Colorado is a painful reminder of the lengthy gestation time of environmental disasters. The ugly surge was unleashed last week by an EPA contractor, which unwittingly breached a dike that allowed contaminated water from the Gold King Mine to flood into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River. Images from the polluted river as it flowed downstream through the town of Durango were appalling and the story became a media sensation.

13 — Readers React: Don't trust the EPA on the Animas River spill, Los Angeles Times, 8/13/2015

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-le-0813-thursday-animas-river-spill-20150813-story.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's words of reassurance and comfort after the Colorado mine spill into the Animas and San Juan rivers should not be trusted. Those placating words do not have the historical ring of truth. ("States downstream from contaminated river upset that EPA didn't alert them," Aug. 11)

14 EPA: Water quality returning to normal after Colo. Spill, USA Today, 8/14/15

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/08/13/epa-water-quality-returning-normal->

after-colo-spill/31677077/

Water quality tests on the Animas River in Colorado indicate heavy metal levels are returning to normal after a spill last week released 3 million gallons of contaminated mine wastewater into the river, officials said.

The Environmental Protection Agency samples were analyzed for 24 different metals commonly found in mine waste, including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

15 Animas River spill: Hurdles remain at Gold King, Denver Post, 8/14/15

http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_28638259/hurdles-remain-at-gold-king

Orange wastewater cascaded from the Gold King Mine on Thursday as heavy machinery echoed, digging a new waste pond. Workers tossed chemicals into four existing ponds lined with plastic while Environmental Protection Agency responders walked around the cleanup site, now complete with portable toilets, a command post and pickup trucks moving in and out.